REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending for consideration in the present application. Claims 2 - 12 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

On 18 NOV 2009, Applicants and Examiner Lindsey conducted a teleconference. Applicants thank the Examiner for making time for the teleconference. Below, Applicants are providing a written statement of the substance of the teleconference.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0087647 to Quine et al.[1] (hereinafter "the Quine et al. publication"), in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0013817 to Collins et al., in view of an article entitled "Setting up Catch All Email" (hereinafter "Setting up Catch All Email"), and further in view of an article by Sherwood entitled, "Finding Someone's Email Address".

During the teleconference, Applicants presented a proposed amendment that clarifies an aspect of claim 1. Examiner Lindsey agreed that the proposed amendment renders claim 1 patentable over the cited references. The present amendment is a formal submission of the proposed amendment.

Claim 1 provides for a computerized method for determining a desired recipient's email address. The method includes, *inter alia*:

> e. developing a known invalid email address for a unique email server address;
>
> f. sending a probe email addressed to the known invalid email address;
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> g. monitoring a response of a target recipient email server for the unique email server address; and
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> h. determining, from the response, whether the target recipient email server issues a bounce in response to the sending of an email to an invalid email address.

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[1] The Office Action merely refers to "Quine", but does not provide a publication number. Applicants are assuming that the reference to "Quine" is a reference to U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0087647, as cited in an office action dated 26 MAR 2008.

Setting up Catch All Email describes an issuance of a bounce in response a receipt of an invalid email. The Quine et al. publication describes monitoring a response to an email. However, both of Setting up Catch All Email and the Quine et al. publication describe situations in which <u>it is assumed that a recipient email server will issue a bounce</u> in response to a sending of an email to an invalid email address. None of the references discloses <u>determining whether the recipient email server issues a bounce</u> in response to a sending of an email to an invalid email address. Thus, the cited combination of references neither discloses nor suggest the above-noted steps, i.e., e - h, and in particular, **determining, from the response, whether the target recipient email server issues a bounce** in response to the sending of an email to an invalid email address, as recited in claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of references.
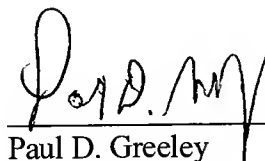
Applicants are requesting reconsideration and a withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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